



NEWS

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

For Immediate Release:
August 25, 2003

News Media Contact:
Rosemary Kimball at (202) 418-0511
Email: Rosemary.Kimball@fcc.gov

FCC CONTINUES FOCUS ON INDIAN TELECOM INITIATIVES WITH VISITS TO STANDING ROCK SIOUX AND CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX

Washington, DC – The FCC continued outreach to Indian Country as part of its Indian Telecommunications Initiatives (ITI) with recent visits to two federally-recognized tribes in rural America. On August 13, Consumer & Governmental Affairs (CGB) staff met with Tribal leaders and members of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in Ft. Yates, ND to discuss telecommunications initiatives on the Standing Rock Reservation. CGB staff also toured the reservation to view first-hand the existing telecommunications infrastructure and learn more about the Tribe's goal of bringing increased basic and advanced telecommunications services to its members. Tribal leaders view access to adequate telecommunications services as vital to promoting the Tribe's health, education, welfare and economic development objectives.

CGB's visit to the Standing Rock Reservation is part of the Commission's ongoing efforts to promote a government-to-government relationship with Indian tribes and follow the specific principles and goals as set forth in the Commission's June 2000 Policy Statement Establishing a Government-to-Government Relationship with Indian Tribes. At the request of the Tribe, CGB staff met with Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Chairman Charles W. Murphy, members of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council and other Tribal members on a government-to-government basis to discuss the Tribe's recently-enacted telecommunications utility code, following on similar meetings with state officials earlier in the week.

CGB staff also visited the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation and met with Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Telephone Authority (CRSTTA) General Manager, J.D. Williams and members of his staff. The 100% tribally-owned telecommunications company provides telephone and internet services throughout the reservation. CGB Staff toured CRSTTA's facilities and those of Lakota Technologies, Inc., a tribally-owned venture that includes call center and document-imaging operations. CGB staff learned how the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe is using its telecommunications infrastructure and services to bring new enterprises and jobs to its Reservation.

The FCC's ITI is comprehensive program that seeks to promote understanding, cooperation and trust among American Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, and tribal organizations; the FCC and other governmental agencies; and the telecommunications industry. The ITI program is designed to build partnerships to target specific concerns, identify potential solutions, and bring affordable, quality telecommunications services to Indian Country. Specifically, ITI seeks to increase the telephone penetration rate among tribal communities; facilitate the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure in Indian Country necessary to provide telecommunications services; and inform tribes and tribal consumers about financial support available through federal government programs, including Universal Service Fund programs.

For information on this and other topics of interest to tribes, visit the FCC's Tribal Initiatives Web site at www.fcc.gov/indians.

For information on this and other topics of interest to consumers, visit our Web site at www.fcc.gov/cgb

To receive information on this and other FCC consumer topics through the Commission's electronic subscriber service, click on www.fcc.gov/cgb/emails-service.html.

- FCC -